



June is National Annuity Awareness Month, so we want to give a special shout out of appreciation to our annuitants! Thank you for your enduring support to advance our mission!

**Love**  
*bears all things,  
believes all things,  
hopes all things,  
endures all things.  
Love never fails.*

## 1 Corinthians 13:7

May God reward you for making our healing work possible!

Laura Wulf  
314-678-6635

Through our exceptional health care services, we reveal the healing presence of God.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVING SUPPORT!

YOU make life better for the children at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon.

If you are in town, we hope to see you at our upcoming events:

July 28	Ambassador Choice Awards
September 9	Glennon Golf Classic
September 17	Glennon Gallop Polo Match
October 10	Dierdorf-Pronger Golf Tournament
November 5	Glennon Glow (60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala)
November 17	Tree of Hope Opening
December 7	Foundation Holiday Party
April 21, 2017	Glennon Guild Fashion Show

**OUR MISSION:** THROUGH OUR EXCEPTIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES, WE REVEAL THE HEALING PRESENCE OF GOD.



For more information about these events,  
call 1-800-269-0552 or visit [glennon.org](http://glennon.org)

**Please consider making a heartfelt gift in your will to have a lasting impact  
on our children now and for generations to come.**

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## Meet Alejandro

You never expect to be chasing a helicopter from Cape Girardeau to St. Louis at 2 am with your son holding on for dear life in it, but that is what we unfortunately had to experience on December 5.

Our 16-year-old baby boy, Alejandro, the youngest of six children was in an accident about a mile from our house. He broke his femur, knee, shoulder, six ribs, he fractured a few vertebra and concussed his lungs. Upon arriving to the Emergency Room at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital, we were received by a kind and sincere group of nurses and doctors that paid careful attention not only to my son but to my family and I as well. They could see how distraught I was and tried to console me by letting me know that they would do everything they could for my son.



After he was patched up and relatively stable, he was moved to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). I have to say that I was extremely pleased with all of the doctors, nurses, environmental services, respiratory therapists and all the other extraordinary staff from this unit. They not only treated my son with genuine love and care, but they put up with all of Alejandro's family and friends for 38 long days and nights. Alejandro needed surgery to fix all the broken bones that could be surgically repaired, but his left lung was so bad we had to wait until it was strong enough to withstand the basic ventilation and anesthesia. On the second night into our stay his right lung blossomed and it was one of his most critical moments. If the nurses and doctors had not reacted so quickly, I do not believe my son would be here today, but they were extraordinary and they saved his life.

After that incident, they put Alejandro on a nitrogen oxide mixture for his lungs to help oxygenate his body better. It was truly a critical time, but the medical teams all worked together until about three weeks into his stay when he was strong enough to go into surgery. About a week after that, he was able to come off the ventilator. At this point he began to feel all the pain he hadn't felt because of the sedation, but the worst had to be the nerve pain in his leg that no amount of medication seemed to be helping.





The pain management team would come up to talk to him as he was in just uncontrollable pain. Vipin Bansel, MD, Pediatric Anesthesiology, was called to see if he could help relieve some of his pain and he instructed us on his relatively new treatment, the nerve block. He wanted to do a test run with a single dose and it did wonders for Alejandro's pain. It lasted 12 hours and completely took away his pain.

Once we saw that this treatment would work on our son, Dr. Bansel and Virginia returned to put the nerve block catheter in for seven days, which gave his body time to get the other long term medications working. This treatment was like magic. I'm not sure how we would have survived without the block, because up until then, nothing could rid him of the extreme pain he was feeling.

We are so immeasurably thankful for everything that the wonderful people at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon did to make this horrible ordeal a little more tolerable. From the cleaning ladies like LaShonda, Sandy and Ikea cleaning the rooms with a smile of their faces - to the extraordinary nurses like Anna, Lucy, Kayla and Cierra - we are so grateful for everything they did for us. This is not even mentioning the out-of-this-world doctors that basically live at the hospital making sure that their patients are safe and cared for.

We spent our Christmas and New Years at the PICU, and although they were not ideal circumstances, we can definitely say that we got our Christmas miracle and it's all thanks to SSM Health Cardinal Glennon.

With gratitude,

Tamara  
*Alejandro's Mom*

